Member's report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period December 2015 – November 2016

NOTE: TO CHECK A BOX, DOUBLE CLICK ON IT AND TICK 'CHECKED' UNDER 'DEFAULT VALUE' IN THE POP UP WINDOW

1. **Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action and GM.** *Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI Plan of Action (http://www.icriforum.org/icri-secretariat/current) and objectives of the general meeting.*

   a. Bleaching event

   Through implementation of the Green Fins approach to sustainable diving, participating dive centres are encouraged to actively participate in coral reef monitoring. There are currently almost 400 dive centres actively working towards implementing the Green Fins code of best practice. Monitoring methods are promoted in line with national programmes and initiatives. In Malaysia dive centres are encouraged to use Reef Check, in the Maldives dive centres are encouraged to participate in the National Coral Reef Monitoring Framework, and marine monitoring activities promoted through the Citizen Science section of the Marine Conservation portal (developed and managed through a USAID project implemented by IUCN Maldives in collaboration with the national government).

   The bleaching watch survey reporting form (Annex 1) is also widely promoted to members through training workshops, inclusion in training and guidance packs and through social media.

   Reef-World is not involved in the administering of any of the monitoring databases, so we do not have access to the number of dive centres actively participating.

   b. ***INDCs - Intended Nationally Determined Contributions*** *– Did your national contribution mention 'marine ecosystems or coral reefs'? Would you be interested in joining an Ad Hoc committee to develop guidelines to integrate coral reefs in the INDC?*

   N/A

   c. Nature-based Solutions to address Climate Change - *Do you have some example(s) of Nature-based (coral reef and related ecosystems) Solutions to address climate change? If yes, could you please provide use some details?*

   Green Fins, the flagship programme of Reef-World, promotes and measures compliance to a code of best practice. The approach promotes the implementation of effective controls and practices to mitigate risk to marine biodiversity. By reducing local direct stress to coral reefs and associated ecosystems their resilience to threats associated with climate change is enhanced, giving them a chance to survive.

   d. ***UN Sustainable Development Goals*** *– Do you have example(s) showing how coral reefs and related ecosystems address the SDG (SDG 14 but also other related ones such as SDG 1 – End poverty in all its form; SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition…)*

Green Fins is supporting governments in the active countries to addresses SGDs 12 and 14 in the following ways –

Goal 12. To ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- Target 12.2

  Green Fins provides a pioneering model utilising the private sector helping industry support governments to ensure SCP through generating leaner business practices.

  A robust assessment system monitors and promotes compliance to a 15-point environmental code of conduct to reduce direct impacts to coral reefs. Lack of compliance is addressed through strategic outreach and capacity building, promotion of Green Fins membership for active and assessed members with membership suspension of a business for non-compliance and repeat offenders.

- Target 12.4

  Green Fins Code of Conduct item 9 promotes a minimum discharge policy for all chemical and hazardous waste within all diving and snorkelling business operations.

- Target 12.5

  Green Fins Code of Conduct item 8 promotes a good waste management policy, including promoting local and if possible national recycling options whilst reducing the use and provision of non-recyclable materials such as single use disposable plastics for customers.

- Target 12.8

  Through strategic outreach and capacity building throughout the Green Fins network of dive staff, business owners, local practitioners, and national authorities, individuals are given guidance and tools to take meaningful actions for the sustainable use of marine resources. This includes providing information to the public to provide informed choices on tourism and leisure activities.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

- Target 14.2

  By providing an effective model to promote sustainable diving and snorkelling activities, Green Fins reduces direct threats to coral reefs and promotes resilience.

  Through specific training for business managers, industry representatives are, for example, made aware to the importance of the use of mooring buoys, ensuring no touch policies and minimising harmful pollutants to the marine environment, helping to maintain health of marine ecosystems and increasing their resilience to wider scale threats.

- Target 14.7

  Green Fins promotes the wise use of dive and snorkel sites through providing capacity on non-damaging techniques to staff to manage their guests and customers. This ensures a reduction in damage to valuable and economic resources helping to sustainably grow marine tourism as a viable alternative to livelihood security from often more damaging or extractive alternatives such as fishing.

e. Do you have notional measure(s) – existing or in development - to ban the sale and manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products containing plastic microbeads? And plastic bags?

f. ***Upcoming events -*** *Do you plan to attend:*

- *November 2016 - Marrakech Climate Change Conference / The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) - No plans*
- *December 4, 2016 to December 17, 2016 - Convention on Biological Diversity COP13 - No plans*
- *June 2017* - Oceans & Seas Global Conference, Fiji- *No plans*
- Other(s):

2. **Updates on your activities.** The following table is a summary of ICRI's *Framework for Action* (FFA) and its four cornerstones. (The full text of the FFA is available in English, French, and Spanish at http://icriforum.org/icri-documents/icri-key-documents/continuing-call-action-2013).

Integrated Management	**Objective**	**Manage coral reefs and related ecosystems using an ecosystem approach, recognizing place based activity; connectivity within and among ecological, social, economic, and institutional systems; as well as with attention to scale; resilience of ecological and social systems; and long-term provision of ecosystem services.**
	General Approach	**Integrated management, using a strategic, risk-based, informed approach, provides a framework for effective coral reef and related ecosystem management which supports natural resilience, ecosystem service provision, and enhances the ability to withstand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.**
	Desired outcome	**There is a demonstrable reduction in the threats to coral reefs and related ecosystems through management action.**
Capacity Building	**Objective**	**To build capacity in all facets of management of coral reefs and related ecosystems and support dissemination and application of best practices to achieve the widest possible engagement of all stakeholders in planning and management activities.**
	General Approach	**Continued collaboration, partnerships, outreach, information sharing and education to ensure the uptake of best practices and encourage behavioural change. This can only be successful if the diversity of cultures, traditions and governance among nations and regions are taken into account.**
	Desired outcome	**Persons who have influence in the management of coral reef and related ecosystems have the knowledge, tools and capital necessary to apply best practices, adapted to the cultural and socio-economic context.**
Science & Monitoring	**Objective**	**To support research and citizen science approaches to enable countries and communities assess and report on the status of and threats to their coral reefs and related ecosystems in a coordinated, comparable and accessible manner.**
	General Approach	**Research and monitoring programs are essential to ensure that management of coral reefs and related ecosystems is based on best available (scientific) information.**
	Desired outcome	**Knowledge of the status and trends in coral reefs and related ecosystems health is enhanced and used to inform planning and management, improving management outcomes.**
Periodic Assessment (Review)	**Objective**	**To engage in periodic review of the impact and effectiveness of all elements of management to enable evaluation and refinement of management measures in an adaptive framework.**
	General Approach	**Periodic assessments of management effectiveness and evaluation of projects and activities to ensure the efficacy of management tools and systems in tackling the range of pressures affecting coral reefs and related ecosystems and protecting the values associated with them.**
	Desired outcome	**Management processes and activities are regularly reviewed and improved using a structured approach, to enhance their ability to effectively reduce pressures and threats.**

Using the table on the previous page, as well as the detailed descriptors of approaches and strategies available in the full text of the FFA as a reference, please give us an update on an activity/project/program(s) which has been particularly successful in your country/organization during this reporting period.

Project 1

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: ☒ Integrated Management ☒ Capacity Building ☒ Science & Monitoring ☒ Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Green Fins
Location	Popular diving destinations in Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam
Dates	Continuous and ongoing
Main Organizer(s)	UNEP and The Reef-World Foundation
Main Stakeholder(s)	Relevant national authorities and diving industry
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	Integrated Management – Green Fins is currently active within the government systems of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Maldives, Japan and Singapore. Relevant authorities are using the Green Fins management approach to strategically address risk posed by activities associated with marine tourism to marine biodiversity through. Reduction in threat is evidenced by assessment data from a robust assessment system which monitors compliance of businesses to best environmental practice. Assessment data highlights high risk activities for prioritising management action. Capacity Building – Authorities responsible for coral reef resource management are lead partners for Green Fins implementation in each of the Green Fins active countries. Reef-World delivered tailored capacity building interventions for national and local government to develop capacity for managing sustainable diving and snorkelling activities. Learning and outreach material and activities for the application of best practice within dive and snorkel centres are also available to build capacity for sustainability within the industry. Through a recent project supported by UNEP, the Reef-World team have developed new tools, overhauled old tools and consolidated them into one Toolbox to make the Green Fins capacity building material more accessible to a wider audience globally. In addition a Satogaeri / UNEP funded project has enabled the Reef-World team to adapt existing and develop new Green Fins outreach and awareness materials, and communications strategy, for the Chinese, Japanese and Korean diving market. Science and Monitoring – The Green Fins code of conduct promotes active participation in marine monitoring. Dive and snorkel operation staff are trained in methods in line with national programmes supporting government and NGO initiatives. Periodic Assessment (Review) – The Green Fins approach provides a unique and robust assessment system which monitors the effectiveness of controls in place within dive and snorkel centre businesses to minimise environmental risks associated with business practices. Assessment data highlights high risk activities. Practical and realistic solutions are provided to business managers to address these risks. Data analysis can also identify common challenges leading to environmental risk at the dive destination level, and national level. National trends and patterns are reported by Reef-World to national partners to enable informed management planning to respond to current environmental impacts.

Outcome (Expected outcome)	Reduced environmental impacts associated with diving and snorkelling activities in active countries, as evidenced by assessment scores. Enhanced understanding of, and awareness to, risks associated with diving and snorkeling activities to marine biodiversity. Greater replicability of Green Fins and more consistent application of the approach through provision of consolidated, comprehensive guidance. Enhanced national uptake of Green Fins best practice, through development or revision of national and subnational policy frameworks. Enhanced implementation of Green Fins to address specific issues associated with intra-regional reef tourism.
Lessons learned	Lessons learned are shared between the Green Fins network through Reef-World capacity building interventions and online platforms.
Related websites (English preferred)	www.greenfins.net

Note: If you have more activities/projects/programs you would like to report on or share with other members, please duplicate the table above and fill it in for as many projects as you wish.

3. **Publications.** Please list relevant publications/reports you have released during this reporting period.

Title (incl. author and date)	**Website URL if available**	**Type of publication** (Paper, report, etc.)
Roche, R.C., Harvey, C.V., Harvey, J.J., Kavanagh A P., M., McDonald, V. R., Stein-Rostaing (2016) Recreational Diving Impacts on Coral Reefs and the Adoption of Environmentally Responsible Practices within the SCUBA Diving Industry et al. Environmental Management 58: 107.	http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00267-016-0696-0	Paper
Green Fins Dive and Snorkel Centre Handbook	http://www.greenfins.net/handbooks	Operational Handbook
Green Fins Site Level Handbook	http://www.greenfins.net/handbooks	Operational Handbook
Green Fins National Level Handbook	http://www.greenfins.net/handbooks	Operational Handbook

4. **General Information.** (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks.)

Member type (Country / Organization):	The Reef-World Foundation
Focal Point 1:	
Name:	Chloe Harvey
Title/Organization:	Programmes Manager
Email:	chloe@reef-world.org
Focal Point 2:	
Name:	James Harvey
Title/Organization:	Operations Manager
Email:	jj@reef-world.org

Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI.

ANNEX 1. Bleaching Watch Survey reporting form

Bleaching Response Committee
bleaching@reefcheck.org.my

Bleaching Watch Survey Reporting Form

A. Personal details			
Name		Organisation	
Contact no.		Email	
B. Site information			
Site Name		Island/Country	
Date		Time	
Latitude		Longitude	
Visibility (m)		Temperature (^{o}C)	

C. Bleaching information	
% of coral at this site that is bleached (estimation):	
(If there is bleaching event only)	
Depth where bleaching is observed (m):	
Any pictures taken?	

Type of coral/other organism affected (please mark with an "X"):

Hard coral ( ) Soft coral ( ) Sea anemone ( )
Giant clam ( ) Others (please state)

Additional information: